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CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State
Operations Center

(GUYANA TASK FORCE)

Situation Report No. 24

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐ or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ E.A.P.O.(3) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
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PA OF OTHER EXEMPTIONS

Situation in Guyana as of 2300 hours (EST) Nov. 28, 1978

The U.S. military presence in Guyana now consists of two extended-range Huey helicopters, seven UH-1 crewmen, and one Lt. Col. SOUTHCOM liaison officer (who will leave within 48 hours). The eight-man Air Force security guard unit has departed for the United States.

Seven elderly members of the Peoples Temple have reservations to the United States Wednesday on a Pan Am flight to New York. They will be accompanied by a U.S. consular officer who was temporarily assigned to Guyana during the crisis. HEW, FBI and the Secret Service have been notified and are planning for the arrival. The three Peoples Temple members who are still hospitalized seem to be recovering. It is still unknown when they will be released and well enough to travel. The AID doctor has examined them, and they have been visited several times by a consular officer. The military is ready to evacuate them by special military aircraft when needed. The Embassy still has no definite word on the release of the other survivors.

Department today received a mailgram from Bishop Leroy Chinn who claims to be General Overseer of the Peoples Temple movement. He blames the death of Congressman Ryan and "those people in Guyana" on racism of the U.S., not Reverend Jones. He warns that if the U.S. does not stop the racism here, "these things" will take place within the U.S. He stated that he has notified his attorneys to file suit against the USG to keep the gold, checks and all money belonging to the Peoples Temple from "going back into the U.S. Treasury." We have passed the mailgram to L and Department of Justice.

The GOG has finally agreed to allow the LEGATT to photograph fingerprint cards under the supervision of the immigration authorities. The undeveloped film will be sent back to the United States with the consular officer returning tomorrow night. A Guyanese medical official has agreed to provide death certificates on the basis

of confirmed identification from Dover. SCS has sent the first list of 33 names to the Embassy.

Radio Barbados has interviewed Tim Carter, one of the survivors, and is reporting that, three days before Congressman Ryan was killed, Carter told Jones that he would be killed by anti-Peoples Temple groups. Radio Barbados speculates that the information convinced Jones to put an end to the Peoples Temple movement in Guyana.

Stephen R. Gibson
Guyana Working Group

Tom Reynders
Senior Watch Officer